Responsibility for accident in Bombay-Howrah Mail

216. SHRI ASHOK M1TRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the statement attributed to him in some newspaper reports to the effect that hi:, Ministry does not bear any responsibility for the gruesome accident on the Bombay-Howrah Mail at Chakradharpur in the last week of Octo ber is factually correct;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether any enquiry or enquiries have already established where the accountability for the accident lies; and

(c) whether relatives of passerueis who died i[n] the accident were refused death certificates, th[ereD]y Pacing them in gra;e difficulty in arranging the cre-mation of dead bodies';

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. IAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Statutory inquiry into the accident is being conducted by the Commiss'oner of Railway Safety, South Eastern Circle, who works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The cause of the accident will be known on receipt of the Final Report.

(c) The dead bodies of the passengers involved in train accidents are taken over by the police. Any certification required is done by the State Government authorities after post-mortem.

Introduction of instant action groups

217. SHRI SURESH KALMADL Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to **state:**

(a) whether ii is a facl thai instant action groups °n some important trains have recently been introduced by Railways Authorities;

lb) if so, what are the details $_0$f such trains; and

(c) what specific service will be discharged by the action groups?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. IAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Yes!, Sir.

lb) 17 pairs of trains have been nominated for monitoring purposes.

(c) The Instant Aciion Group$_s$ have been formed to monitor the nominated trains specially at night hours with speci fic lefereuce to attending to grievances of passengers 'on board ' as far as pos sible, preventing unauthorised passengers roin travelling on I coaches or the train, to deteci earn of inflam-rnable articles or items of suspicious nature on trains and lake prompt corrective action thereon.

Details of exnansion-cuivt-developnient plan chalked out for Suburban Services

218. SHRI VIRIEN J. SHAH; Will the Minis:e$_r$ of RAILWAYS be pleasec to state:

(a) what are the details of expansion-cum-development plan chalked out for Western and Central Railway Suburban Services;

(h) what is the number and details o New EMU rakes proposed to be made available for Western Railway and Cen-tral section and when these are likeh to be completed;

(c) what will be the total expenditun involved;

(dl whether there js any proposal t< upgrade three car sheds at Kalwa, Kurl;
i' Bhiwandi to look afre$_r$ the mainte ":i" c of '2 coaches rakes; and

(el if so, what are the details and b) when the: e are litely to be upgraded ant at vvhat .cost?